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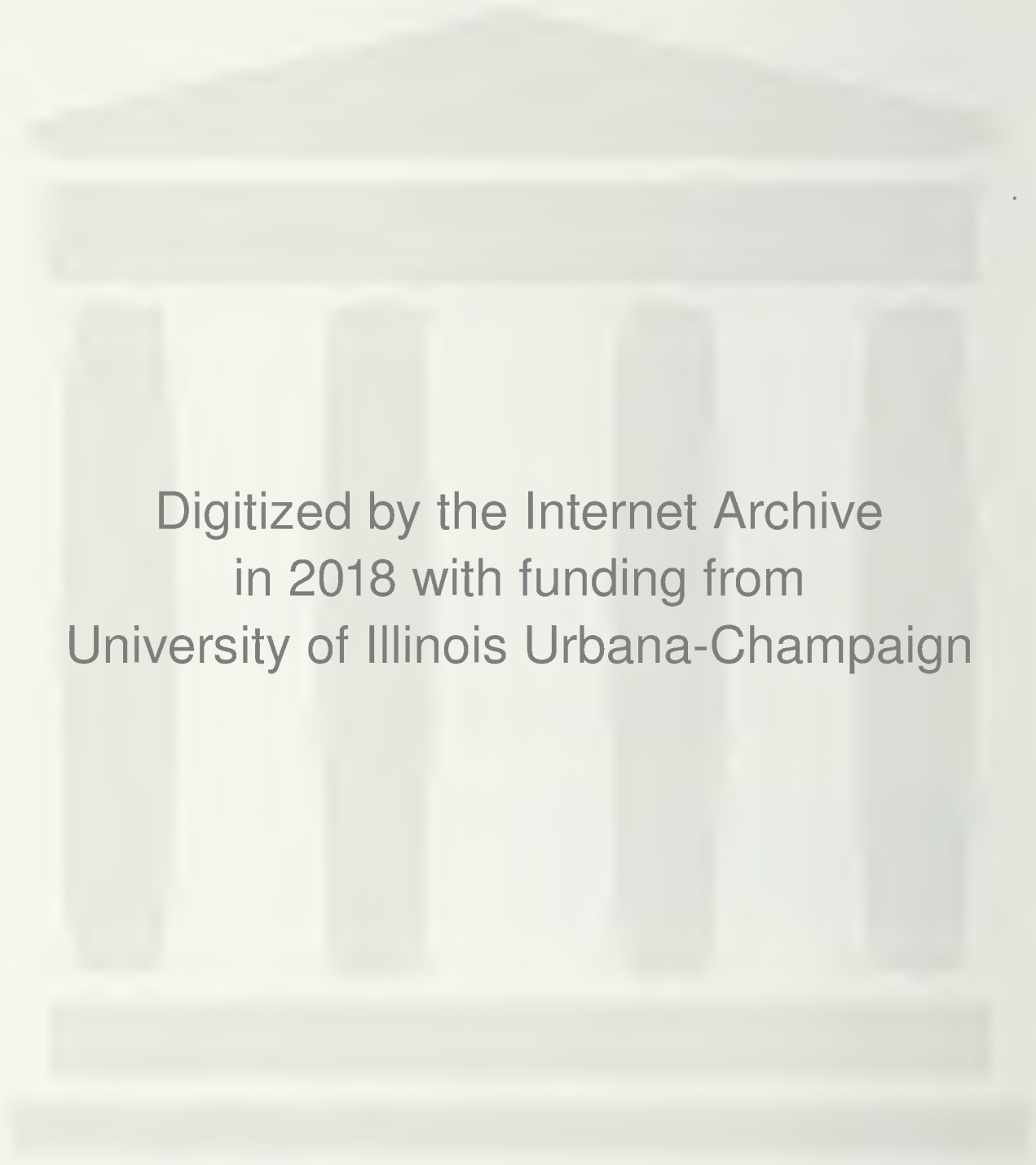
ILLINOIS DOCUMENTS

# Job Creation and Vocational Education

Illinois  
State Board of  
Education

Adult,  
Vocational and  
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## Job Creation and Vocational Education

### Promoting the Role of Vocational Education in Job Creation

sponsored by

**Illinois State Board of Education**

**Adult, Vocational and  
Technical Education**

Springfield, IL

conducted by

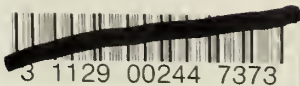
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#### CONTACT

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#### PROJECT RATIONALE

Vocational education in Illinois plays an important role in preparing young people and adults with skills that are needed for work. Persons having vocational skills are more employable and more productive than persons without these skills, and when employers seek applicants having vocational preparation, the demand for such vocational programs increases. The lack of employment opportunities, disenchantment with formal educational programs, and a high rate of unemployment among young people and other targeted groups highlight the need for increased vocational education programs which result in gainful employment.

Job creation may be defined as planned change to increase work opportunities. In the private sector, job creation is the result of business expansion and the initiation of new businesses, especially small firms. One estimate indicates that 60 percent of all jobs in the United States are generated by firms with twenty or less employees. There is a need to develop programs in vocational education to teach self-employment skills in addition to the vocational skills needed for employment. Persons who possess both types of skills are better able to create their own employment opportunities as small business owners.

Vocational educators can also help to increase employment opportunities by cooperating with state and local government agencies, employer groups, and other local organizations which are concerned with business, economic, and community development. These groups include (but are not limited to): chambers of commerce, private industry councils, economic development corporations, the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs, and the Illinois State Board of Education. Vocational educators must be more involved in strengthening linkages with other organizations to improve job creation opportunities in local communities.

#### PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- Identify information and materials that increase the understanding of current and potential contributions by vocational education to facilitate the job creation process;
- Prepare materials to help local vocational educators in Illinois understand how they can be more involved in the job creation process;
- Provide assistance to local vocational educators to expand programs leading to job creation;
- Improve interaction between vocational educators and other public and private groups which can influence job creation at the local level;
- Coordinate job creation activities at the state and national levels which have significance for local programs; and
- Identify exemplary local programs which have resulted in job creation.

#### PROJECT OUTCOMES

- Concept papers presenting ideas regarding vocational education and job creation to stimulate further discussion and generate additional research programs. These papers will serve as a basis for developing future policies and should be especially useful to those officials in Illinois interested in policy making and program development.
- Annotated bibliography of materials pertaining to vocational education and job creation. This bibliography will be useful to researchers, policy makers, and program developers.
- Booklet describing various innovative job creation/vocational education programs in Illinois. This booklet will give local school officials ideas and guidelines for formulating and implementing new programs.
- Guidelines for local educational agencies for developing programs to encourage job creation. Guidelines will be developed from existing successful programs in Illinois and other states.
- Plan for future research to assist in developing a positive climate where vocational education can be more involved in research pertaining to the job creation process.

#### COORDINATION WITH NATIONAL PROJECT

The American Vocational Association (AVA) is conducting "A Study to Identify and Promote Linkage Between Vocational Education and Job Creation/Development." The project, funded by the U.S. Office of Education, Bureau of Occupational and Adult Education, will identify innovative vocational education programs that set the pace for economic and community development in coordination with other agencies. Information about unique and exemplary features of successful programs will be disseminated nationwide through a series of workshops. Technical assistance will be provided to selected state and local groups and other interested organizations who wish to (a) start new programs or (b) improve the effectiveness of current programs by coordinating their efforts with other agencies.

#### ILLINOIS WORKSHOP

A three-day workshop will be conducted March 9-11, 1981, in Champaign, Illinois. State and local vocational educators, economic and community developers, and others interested in job creation are invited to participate. Materials from the AVA project and the Illinois project will be disseminated. Efforts to involve local communities in future job creation activities will be discussed.



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